

The Connecticut  
Department  
of Correction



Remember Our Troops

# P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

## AT WORK



## DOC Volunteer Saluted at the State of the State Address

When Governor John Rowland needed an inspirational example of volunteerism and professionalism for his recent State of the State Address, he turned to the Connecticut Department of Correction and Rhina Carmona. During the highly anticipated annual speech which found the state in strong condition, the Governor touted the benefits of his efforts toward utilizing faith-based initiatives in providing state social services to some of the most



Continued on Page 2, *Carmona*

## From the Commissioner

I know that many of you, like me have for the past two weeks been closely following the hostage incident at the Arizona prison. At first, two correction officers had been held by a pair of inmates, and then with one officer released, a lone female hostage was held in a recreation yard tower by two inmates, armed with the weapons that had been secured in that area. I know we all share the deep relief that the incident ended peacefully after 15 days. We can only imagine the incredibly difficult circumstances the officer endured and the alternatives that her superiors had to consider in what is one of the most difficult situations that can occur in our profession. As the details of the incident are revealed it is extremely important that we as an agency study and learn from what happened and understand precisely how and why this could have occurred.



Continued on Page 4, *Commissioner*

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### Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration

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About and for  
correctional  
professionals

February 1 -  
14, 2004

# From the Front Line

Good Morning from Kuwait. I just made it back last night the 30th of January. I wanted to send some pictures of my son's class and the presentation I gave to the Newtown Middle School seventh grade. They were very impressed with the pictures and souvenirs that I showed them. My son Jeffrey was so happy that I shared my pictures and experience over in Iraq. I want everyone to know that it was a privilege and honor



to take pictures and eat lunch with Commissioner Lantz and here executive team. Thanks to all DOC staff for your continued support.

Officer Shirley Lambert.

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## Carmona, Cont'd

vulnerable citizens. It was then that he introduced Carmona, a 14- year DOC religious volunteer, who stood to the applause of the General Assembly Chamber filled with lawmakers and dignitaries. "Her ministry has made a remarkable difference in the lives of the inmates she serves," said Governor Rowland in the speech broadcast live statewide. "She is a faith-based initiative of one!" Carmona provides religious services at the Garner Correctional Institution, in a robust manner that defies her age, which the Governor disclosed as 70. "Rhina reminds us that everybody, regardless of age, has something to offer," he said. In a private meeting with the Governor prior to the speech, Carmona expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the prison population. "I can't do this alone," she said. "It is because of the DOC staff and the support that they provide that allows us to succeed in offering the inmates a better path in life." Honors such as this are not new for Carmona who had been chosen as the Connecticut Post newspaper's Woman of the Year in 2002. As a result of that publicity, he has received letters from the relatives of inmates expressing their gratitude for her efforts with the inmate population. More than 2,400 volunteers like Carmona annually provide thousands of hours of substance abuse, education and religious programming to the inmate population with an estimated value of more than \$2-million.

## Pride. AT Work

for  
February 1 - 14,  
2004

Distributed  
bi-weekly to 7,000  
staff and via the  
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Wolcott Hill Road,  
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06109

John G. Rowland,  
Governor

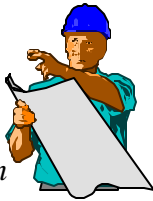
Theresa C. Lantz,  
Commissioner

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Submit items by  
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published in the  
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month in advance  
for calendar events.

# Did you Know?



*Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. If you have an idea or question for a future column please contact David Batten, Acting Director at 860-692-7554*

## **“Did you know” why you should hire an Architect?**

When you apply for a building permit to build or modify your home, your local building official will require you to submit drawings to describe the work you intend to do. While it may not be necessary for you to hire an architect to do this, there are reasons why you might want to.

### **Consider these advantages of working with an Architect.**

1. Architects can assist you through the maze of design options, working within the parameters of your needs, building codes, zoning laws and other permitting requirements.
2. The architect is the one professional who has the education, training, experience, and vision to guide you through the entire design and construction process, to get the most for your construction dollar.
3. Architects look out for your interest by finding ways to make the construction process go smoothly and by visiting the construction site to verify that the work is being built according to the plans and specifications.

### **Assistance finding an architect:**

More information is available by contacting AIA Connecticut at 203.865.2195. Free publications include a list of architects who specialize in residences, and other publications to help you understand how to work through the design and construction process.



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## Teacher of the Year

SST Donna Ciesinski of Corrigan-Radgowski CC was awarded ‘Teacher of the Year’ by the Unified School District #1.

Donna Ciesinski exemplifies what an exceptional teacher is. She has earned the respect and admiration of her students, colleagues and the administration. Superintendent William B. Barber stated that “Ms. Ciesinski is a model for what good teaching is all about.”

Ms. Ciesinski, a ten year veteran of the department, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Marist College, a Master’s of Science degree from Central Connecticut State University and has completed additional graduate work at the University of Missouri. She has taught ABE classes at Corrigan - Radgowski CC and has provided Special Education services to students throughout her ten years there. She is described by School Principal Melissa Stubbs as “always going above and beyond what is expected of her.” Ms. Stubbs states also that “Ms. Ciesinski completes tasks efficiently and with a great deal of obvious compassion.”

In addition to providing exemplary teaching practices in the classroom, Donna is a trained BEST mentor, an LVA instructor and she has participated in the Quality of Worklife committee in her school. She coordinates the CLEP program, a program for students who seek post-secondary credits, supervises a student newspaper and was selected as the Radgowski employee of the year in 1995.

## Condolences



Dave Batten, Acting Director Facilities Management & Engineering, is saddened to announce the passing of Leo Mulholland, father of Margo Mulholland (Central Office) and Dior (Corrigan-Radgowski CI) Mr. Mulholland is also the uncle to Charles Mulholland (York CI).

Continued on Page 6, *Condolences*





## Agency good neighbor

In December, the Cultural Diversity Council at Northern CI put together gift baskets for the families of their staff who are currently on active duty with the military. FSS Sherman Sizemore solicited donations and put the baskets together.



(L-R) Major Esther Torres, FSS II Sherman Sizemore and Warden Choinski

## High School Thank you Tours MYI

A group of 31 Law & Sociology students from the Amity High School toured the Manson Youth Institution on December 5, 2003. Captain Kelvin Jones, C/S Rodney Parker, Counselor Emily Cortese and Officer Carianne Dugan led the guided tour of several housing units and the programming and education departments. Staff members provided insight and commentary on the opportunities for growth and stressed the importance of making sound decisions on a daily basis.

Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy received a letter from the Director of the Southwestern Area Commerce and Industry Association thanking him for hosting the Fairfield County Leadership Program on Crime and Criminal Justice. Program participants attended a session that helped them understand the complexities of the criminal justice system as well as the Department's new mission statement and organizational structure. The Director stated, "the tour of Garner CI was very informative and Warden Gomez's comments were insightful."

## Commissioner, Cont'd

Throughout this ordeal, we in the corrections profession have asked ourselves the question of what if it had happened here and what if it was me involved. What would I do, how would I react? There is only one way to insure that we can always ask those questions from a distance, and that is to remain forever vigilant and therefore safe in our duties. Because our facilities are currently quiet, our guard should never be lowered. Our hearts and prayers go out to the now safe hostages, their fellow staff and the leadership of the Arizona Department of Corrections. As always, I take great pride in our staff and our demonstrated diligence to protect the public, staff and maintaining order in our facilities.

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## Calendar

### February 27



A Retirement Party in honor of Janis Jones will be held at LaRenaissance on Friday, February 27, 2004 from 6:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. The \$40.00 donation includes music by DJ Rick "D" Ruler, dinner buffet and a two hour open bar. For tickets and additional information please call 860-240-1802.

### March 9



The Joe Bongiorno DOC Golf League will have an organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 9th (weather permitting) for both last year's members and anyone interested in playing during the 2004 season. The meeting will be held at JoAnne's Restaurant on Rte. 190 in Somersville, CT from 4:30 -5:30 p.m. Anyone interested in the league is encouraged to call either Ed Korza at 860.763.7352 or Larry Soine at 860.763.6391. League President Ed Fedorowich looks forward to seeing you at JoAnne's!

### March 13



A Retirement Party for Nick Riccuito and Steve Alspaugh both of the Webster CI will be held at the Brass Tacs Cafe, 175 Freight Street, Waterbury CT on Saturday, March 13 at 6:00 p.m. A \$25.00 donation includes a buffet and gift. For tickets you may contact C/O Palmieri or Lt. Panasci at 203.271.5900.

# Instructor of the Year

Superintendent of Schools William Barber announced that Arsenio Lopez has been chosen as the Unified School District Number 1 Vocational Instructor of the Year. Mr. Lopez, an eighteen-year veteran, is a Correctional Vocational Instructor in Auto Body Repair at the Willard-Cybulski Correctional Institution.

Roland Joyal, Arsenio's Principal, praised him by stating "Mr. Lopez has consistently demonstrated throughout his career that he maintains a successful Auto Body Program that is based on current modern theory and mastered by practice."

Mr. Barber noted "Arsenio is an excellent role model for both staff and inmates through his commitment to his work. Mr. Lopez maintains a positive and effective working relationship with his peers and is extremely approachable and willing to help out whenever possible. He always gives 110 percent."

Commissioner Lantz praised Mr. Lopez for his exemplifying our agency motto of PRIDE.



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## Congrats



Warden Cuscovith and staff of the Willard-Cybulski CI offer congratulations to Officer Holly Hensley of WCI and Officer James

Hensley of CRCI on the birth of their son, Tristan. Baby Tristan was born on December 19th, weighing in at 7 lbs. 11 ozs. and 21 inches.



Warden Gonzalez and staff extend congratulations to Officer Sean Cullagh and his wife on the birth of their daughter

who was born on January 20th, weighing in at 7 lbs. 3 ozs. and 20 inches. Molly, dad and mom are doing well!

## Calendar, Cont'd

### March 20

Correction Officer Karl (Kurt) McKinney of the MacDougall-Walker CI will be honored as Worshipful Master by the Prince Hall Masons- Tuscan Lodge #17 at the LaRenaissance in East Windsor from 6:30 p.m. until midnight. Tickets are \$50. Please contact Robert Horn at (860) 614-7941 for additional information.

### March 27

Correction Officer Lucius Miles of the MacDougall-Walker CI will be honored as Worshipful Master by the Prince Hall Masons- St. Peter's Lodge #20 at the SkyLine Restaurant in Windsor from 7:00 p.m. until midnight. Tickets are \$40. Please contact Stephan Smith at (860) 296-2965 for additional information.

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## Years of Service

### Employees with 20 Years of Service for February 2004

Ahmed, William	Correction Officer	CCI
Becker, Winifred	Correction Officer	HCC
Briggs, Rasa	Counselor Supervisor	CO
Carini, Robert	Counselor Supervisor	YCI
Gates, Roderic, Jr.	Lieutenant	CCI
Griffin, William, Jr.	Parole Officer 2	CO
Meadors, Scott	Facilities Engineer 2	NCI
Sawyer, Raymond, Jr.	Correction Officer	McWCI
Scheck, Susan	Correction Officer	YCI
Smith, Edward, Jr.	Correction Officer	NHCC
Soto, Migdalia	Lieutenant	WCI
Turkington, Steven	General Maintenance Officer	BCI

### Employees with 30 Years of Service for February 2004

Olenick, Alan	Maintenance Supervisor	CO
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## Around the cell block



Arkansas- A correction officer who inadvertently opened 26 cells on death row has been fired for inattentiveness to duty.



New Hampshire- A federal judge has ruled that dental care with an outside specialist, denied an inmate due to budget concerns must be provided regardless of cost.



Alabama- The prison system has quietly banned all sexually explicit material to include Playboy magazine.



New York- An employee of the Nassau County Jail has been charged with stealing \$13,000 worth of underwear meant for indigent inmates.

## Condolences, Cont'd



Warden Whidden and staff of CCI-Enfield wish to express their condolences to Office Assistant Marysol Murry and family on the passing of her sister, Blankie Aponte. Ms. Aponte was also the sister-in-law of Lieutenant Mark Murry of Willard-Cybulski CI.



Warden Cuscovitch would like to express his condolences to Captain Nelson Rodriguez and his family for the passing of his brother, Watson (Bosco) Rodriguez.



Warden Strange and the staff at Osborn are saddened by the death of Augustina Fiore, mother of Counselor Supervisor Mike Fiore.



Warden Siemenski and the staff of Carl Robinson extend their condolences on the passing of Correction Officer Mark Holmes mother and the passing of Correction Officer Jamie Dagenais father.

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## MVP's

Autunno, David	C/O	HCC
Barbour, Benjamin	C/O	CRCC
Bettencourt, Timothy		CRCC
Blanchard, Deloris	C/O	McWCI
Blue, Benjamin	Lt	BCC
Capodanno, Brian	C/O	BCC
Cheezic, Scott	C/O	HCC
Colon, Juan	C/O	BCC
Combs, John	C/O	CRCC
Dale, Robert	C/O	HCC
Delorme-Smith, Maria	C/O	NHCC
Fulton, Patrick	CO	CRCC
Galberth, William	C/O	NHCC
Gingras, Peter	C/O	CRCC
Hansen, Jean	SST	BCI
Hartshorn, Tracy	CC	McWCI
Hespelt, Robert	C/O	HCC
Irizarry, Victor	C/O	CRCC
Lauray, Kimberly	C/O	HCC
Leske, Daniel	C/O	McWCI
Lowery, William	C/O	NHCC
Mahoney, Michael	C/O	HCC
Medina, Angel	C/O	HCC
Nichols, Michael	C/O	McWCI
Noyce, George	C/O	CRCC
Olivas, Richard	C/O	MYI
Perkins, Rex	C/O	HCC
Plante, Craig	Lt	CRCC
Reischerl, Andrea	CPRN	CRCC
Rouillard, Michael	C/O	CRCC
Rovins, Derek	C/O	HCC
Schena, Deana	CC	CRCC
Shea, Glen	CRN	CRCC
Sizemore, Sherman	CFES	NCI
Theisen, Jessica	CC	BCC
Thurlow, James	CC	CO
Viele, Timothy	C/O	CRCC
Volk, Fred	CIS	McWCI
Ward, Leslie	Sec 2	OCI
Weldon, Roy	CC	HCC
Wells, Melvin	Maj	NHCC
Wheeler, Kyle	CO	OCI
Winters, Roderick	C/O	CRCC
Whitley, Scott	C/O	BCC
Wilcox, Richard	SST	McWCI

## Parent's PRIDE

Stephanie Appleton, daughter of Fiscal Administrative Manager Leanne Appleton of Central Office was the winner of the CESC Essay and Picture Contest. She was awarded a brand new B Bond Snowboard that was donated



by Alpine Haus of Wethersfield. Stephanie, a 13-year-old 7<sup>th</sup> grader, wrote an essay entitled "Freedom Everywhere." According to the contest judges, she truly captured the theme of "Why I Love America" when she wrote, "America celebrates the differences between all types of people because we understand that is what makes us strong... I love America because America truly loves me." All contest entries were bound in a booklet and sent to our Troops in Iraq who are faithfully fighting for freedom. Congratulations on a job well done.



# DOC Celebrates Black History Month

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From an exhibition on the history of the African American Buffalo Soldiers, to one man's journey from inner city to university presidency, the Department of Correction is exploring and celebrating Black History during the month of February.



(L-R) Dr. Carter, Warden Martin, SST's Jean Hansen and Sterie Pachis



In celebration of Black History Month, The Central Office Diversity Council is hosting an event on February 19, 2004. There will be Buffalo Soldiers Exhibition held at Cafe' 24 (North) from 11:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.. The exhibit will include historical memorabilia, artifacts, limited edition prints and books. Cafe 24 will also provide an ethnic meal for your dining pleasure.

## Donation of Time

Correction Officer Donna Kittridge of the York CI is out of work for an extended length of time due to health concerns and is about to exhaust her accrued leave balances. Any staff member of the NP4 Bargaining Unit interested in donating "PL" or "Vacation" days are encouraged to call Martha Lord at 860-692-6834.

At the Brooklyn Correctional Institution, the President of Eastern Connecticut State University, Dr. David Carter, recently returned for a fourth straight year to motivate the inmates and staff. Raised by his single mother, he detailed the obstacles he'd overcome in life to achieve his success.

"This incarceration is a chapter in your life, not the Book of your Life," Dr. Carter told the inmate audience of more than 60. "You can't do anything about where you are now, but you can do something while you are here to prepare you for when you leave and that is to read."

Last year Carter had challenged the inmates to read 10 books. He reported he personally had met that challenge and doubled it, reading 20 books which he donated to the prison library.

State School Teachers Jean Hansen and Sterie Pachis were instrumental in putting this program together and Warden Martin expressed his gratitude to them and to Dr. Carter. "It is always a pleasure to hear him speak," said Warden Martin.

While additional speakers, movies and activities are planned for other facilities, the Central Office Diversity Council is presenting an exhibition on the African American Buffalo Soldiers who served this country on the western frontier. Several staff have dedicated themselves to keeping this history alive. Their display of memorabilia, attire and artifacts will be on display at Café 24 on February 19 from 11:30 to 1.



(L-R) Counselor Robert Gray, C/O Will Jackson, C/O Henry Aguedelo and C/O Gary Boyd all from CRCI and Capt. Ron Pittman of Central Office Security Division. (Front Center is Counselor Gray's grandson)